

freedom and liberty—after all, no one likes being told what they can and cannot do—74 percent of Americans say they support right-to-work laws, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

Despite overwhelming American support for right-to-work laws, dictatorial Socialists in March rammed through the House a bill that repeals all right-to-work laws in America. Worse yet, dictatorial Socialists seek to use President Biden's infrastructure bill to slip in a provision that repeals all right-to-work laws in America.

I hope neither of these terrible dictatorial bills ever reaches President Biden's desk. Certainly, I will vote against them and I will vote for freedom, liberty, and protection of America's right-to-work laws.

Madam Speaker, America would be stronger if more States would enact right-to-work laws. I encourage citizens and elected officials to promote right-to-work laws, freedom of choice, and the freedom and liberty right-to-work laws represent.

#### IMPORTANCE OF BIPARTISAN ENGAGEMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TORRES of California). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House on the importance of bipartisan engagement on infrastructure.

Yesterday afternoon, I had the privilege of sitting in the Oval Office with President Biden as we, along with a small group of Senators and Representatives, discussed the best way possible to move forward on infrastructure.

Our commitment is clear: Republicans agree that we should put more resources and key investments into the things that we consider the traditional definition of infrastructure. This includes our roads and highways, bridges, ports, and waterways. In order to maintain our competitiveness in the world, strategic investments in things like public transportation and improved air and rail mobility are also key.

We also need to continue fostering American entrepreneurship and private investment in the area of automotive technology with numerous auto companies making great gains in automotive vehicles running on clean, safe, sustainable energy sources, as well as creating an economic environment where they can continue to build out their own electric charging station networks.

Republicans also understand the importance of the technology side of infrastructure, such as the need to expand rural broadband, fortify our cybersecurity to protect critical assets from foreign adversaries, and improving our telecommunication networks across the country. These are all key areas where Republicans and Democrats can come together and work on

infrastructure solutions in a broad, bipartisan way.

As it was made clear to the President, unfortunately, the current proposal floating around goes well beyond that scope and includes funding for projects that are not infrastructure. As much as some of our Members on the other side of the aisle want to speak it into truth, the expansion of social welfare programs is not infrastructure.

If my colleagues want to engage in a rigorous debate over the merits of expanding Medicaid and providing elder care, or whatever else they want to put into this infrastructure proposal, they ought to bring separate bills onto the floor. I am sure my colleagues on this side of the aisle will be happy to engage in that debate.

What we cannot allow is for these provisions to be snuck into a big spending package under the guise of infrastructure.

I do have a small glimmer of hope that there is a bipartisan avenue for moving an infrastructure package. In order to get it done, it is going to take compromise between both sides. President Biden and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle must engage in earnest negotiations with Republicans. Let's put all of our cards on the table and bring forward targeted legislation that actually supports American infrastructure.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STANTON) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God our judge, as we anxiously await the verdict from the jury in Minnesota, we plead our case with You. As a country, we are rent with acrimony, torn by our individual understandings of right and wrong, facts and feelings, and divided by a host of opinions on crime and punishment.

Call us to lay all of this—as hopeless as it appears—on Your judgment seat. Then lay Your divine hand upon the outcome of this case, and also on our compatriots' anger, their thoughts of revenge, and the insatiable need to disrupt and destroy. Stay any inclinations toward violence and remind us that vengeful behavior is no more justified than the acts of those who precipitated

that grief and harm and ignited our cities.

Be merciful on this Nation—despite how we have turned our backs on Your perfect love. As You inevitably judge our response to the incidents of unrest that plague our land, forgive our iniquities and heal our brokenness. Redeem the soul of our country.

Then inspire these leaders of our government to find ways to represent back to their districts and to our communities a better way toward reconciling the divide. Call them to follow Your example of compassion and care, humility and love.

In Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HAGEDORN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### THE NORTHERN BORDER

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it has been 395 days since the United States-Canadian border closed, and the closure was just extended another 30 days.

Families on both sides of the border have been torn apart. People who love each other, parents, and grandchildren are unable to see each other. Vaccinated citizens of both countries significantly lower the risk of getting COVID and wearing face masks significantly lowers the risk of giving COVID.

We need a plan to open the U.S.-Canadian border with vaccines, face masks, and good physical distancing. We can do so safely and successfully.

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

(Mr. HAGEDORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, workforce development is key to sustaining

jobs and economic growth. Manufacturers, small businesses, trade unions, and industry groups are concerned about the increasing skilled labor shortage. Unfortunately, current law limits the use of eligible savings accounts to help reduce the costs of obtaining advanced technical certifications.

My legislation, the American Workforce Empowerment Act, would allow 529 savings accounts to be used for non-degree technical training certificate programs, tools, and any tests that are required to maintain certifications.

As the American workforce rebounds, we will see increased need for skilled workers to meet rising manufacturing, shipping, and construction demand. These skilled labor positions are good-paying jobs that help provide economic stability for hardworking Americans and are essential to the expansion of our Nation's economy.

#### CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN JONATHAN TURNBULL

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Jonathan Turnbull on his promotion to major in the United States Army.

Captain Turnbull of Gaylord, Michigan, was deployed in Syria where he worked with local forces and non-governmental organizations to stabilize the area and provide humanitarian assistance.

On January 16, 2019, an ISIS suicide bomber forever changed the course of his life and the life of his brothers. Four Americans were killed on that day, and Jonathan received life-threatening injuries. His courage and bravery on that day and each day since has inspired countless Americans as he recovered and continued his service.

Jonathan is the epitome of an American patriot and embodies the fighting spirit of our Nation's Armed Forces. He has fought for his life and his country and has truly earned this promotion to major.

I speak for the entire First District when I say how proud we are of Jonathan, his service, and his commitment.

I wish him, Samantha, Ian, and baby Scotty all the best in the many years to come.

#### MOUNT NOTRE DAME GIRLS BASKETBALL

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mount Notre Dame High School girls basketball team on winning the Ohio High School Athletic Association championship.

Mount Notre Dame captured the Division 1 State championship title after beating Newark in a 2-point double

overtime thriller. This championship was the eighth championship for the Mount Notre Dame basketball program—the most in Ohio school history.

Coach Scott Rogers led his team to a 28-0 record, a number two national ranking, and has won 72 consecutive games.

Among the team's many talented athletes is junior guard KK Bransford who was recently named Ohio's Ms. Basketball.

I commend Coach Scott Rogers and the entire Mount Notre Dame girls basketball team for this historic accomplishment and tradition of excellence.

Congratulations, again, to the Mount Notre Dame players, to Coach Rogers and his staff, and to the Mount Notre Dame faithful.

#### THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, since mid-January we have seen a surge of immigrants coming into the country along our southwest border. The numbers are staggering, and the situation along the border continues to deteriorate daily. In March, over 172,000 individuals were encountered by law enforcement, the highest number of monthly encounters in the last 15 years.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit the border and met with both Federal and State law enforcement officers. We heard repeatedly that recent changes by the Biden administration have driven the overwhelming surge.

Lost in the border conversation is the incredible amount of resources being diverted to try and manage the immigrants we are encountering. This shift in resources is being exploited by drug cartels who continue to use the southwest border as the primary pipeline to bring cocaine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl into the country.

The question can no longer be: Is there a crisis along the border?

But instead it should be: How long will the crisis last, and how bad must the crisis become before the President will act?

#### THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address what I think is the biggest crisis to our sovereignty since I have been here, and that is what is going on at the border.

It is hard to think of something new to say, but I want to point out as we pursue an open borders policy that it greatly increases the power of the Mexican cartels.

Because the Mexican cartels have a monopoly on letting people in this country, I heard a story of two people who weren't part of the cartels trying

to sneak people across. Two of them were skinned alive, and a third one was partially skinned and sent back to say: This is what happens if you try to push people across without going through the cartels.

I want to point out an anecdote of a father and a, perhaps, 7-year-old girl who were murdered for trying to come across without the approval of the cartels.

I would like to address the 70,000 people who died from illegal drugs this year. I was recently at the Milwaukee DEA, and I was told last year 540 people in Milwaukee County died of illegal drug use, and the local agents suspected that all 540 were killed by drugs or ingredients from drugs that came across the Mexican border.

Please, President Biden, do something about the crisis on the border.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### LOCAL GRAMMY WINNER JAMES BLACHLY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnstown, Pennsylvania, local, James Blachly, on his 2021 Grammy win.

In April 2018, Blachly and the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra performed the U.S. world premiere of Dame Ethel Smyth's "The Prison." It was this performance that won the 2021 Grammy.

Serving as the music director of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and as music director of the Experiential Orchestra, Mr. Blachly is known for his innovative programming which aims to increase audience engagement.

James is an incredibly talented conductor and composer. In 2016, he was the only conductor from the United States invited to participate in the first annual Young Conductors Showcase as part of El Sistema's 40th anniversary celebration, and he was the only U.S. conductor to be invited as Conducting Fellow in Maestra Marin Alsop's final year at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

Congratulations to James and the Johnstown Symphony. Their hard work and dedication have truly paid off.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II